AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-16. (Canceled).

17.   (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting messages in a multi-node network, comprising:

storing a fixed-byte format message including a plurality of characters each represented by a fixed number of bytes;

converting the fixed-byte format message into a multibyte format message including characters represented by various numbers of bytes, depending on the character;

obtaining an actual length in characters of the multibyte format message;

packaging the information reflecting the actual length in characters of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message; and

transmitting the packaged information and multibyte format message to a network node in a HTTP request.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein converting further comprises translating each character in the fixed-byte format message according to an UTF-8 encoding format.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer to perform a method for transmitting messages in a multi-node network, the method comprising:

storing a fixed-byte format message including a plurality of characters each represented by a fixed number of bytes;

converting the fixed-byte format message into a multibyte format message including characters represented by various numbers of bytes, depending on the character;

obtaining an actual length in characters of the multibyte format message;

packaging the information reflecting the actual length in characters of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message; and

transmitting the packaged information and multibyte format message to a network node in a HTTP request.

21.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein converting further comprises translating each character in the fixed-byte format message according to an UTF-8 encoding format.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transmitting messages in a multi-node network, the apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a fixed-byte format message including a plurality of characters each represented by a fixed number of bytes;

a processor configured to convert the fixed-byte format message into a multibyte format message including characters represented by various numbers of bytes, depending on the character, and to obtain an actual length in characters of the multibyte format message; and

a transmitter configured to transmit information reflecting the actual length in characters of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message to a network node in a HTTP request.

24.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the processor is further configured to translate each character in the fixed-byte format message according to an UTF-8 encoding format.

25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting messages in a multi-node network, the system comprising:

means for storing a fixed-byte format message including a plurality of characters each represented by a fixed number of bytes;

means for converting the fixed-byte format message into a multibyte format message including characters represented by various numbers of bytes, depending on the character;

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means for obtaining an actual length <u>in characters</u> of the multibyte format message;

means for packaging the information reflecting the actual length <u>in characters</u> of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message; and

means for transmitting the packaged information and multibyte format message to a network node in a HTTP request.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the means for converting further comprises means for translating each character in the fixed-byte format message according to an UTF-8 encoding format.

28.   (Canceled)